

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MCS

Support person present: No

1. My name is MCS My date of birth is 1948. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Personal background and qualifications

2. After I left school I worked in Fife as a professional photographer for a local Photographic firm. When I was about eighteen my friend and I were in the local Miners Institute where we used to play snooker and I saw people playing in a hall. We were invited in and I started playing. That's where my interest in began. I hadn't really had any interest in sport before, but found that I was quite good at I became a member of this
3. In 1967 there was a serious fire at the Michael Pit in East Wemyss, which resulted in nine miners dying. As a result the pit closed and a lot of miners lost their jobs. The guy who ran the lost his job and he ended up moving to Luton. He asked me which I did. It was a small group and most, were older than me up to about age of forty. For the next year or two I did various training courses in relation to coaching and umpiring. I became a National Umpire.
4. At some point we had a chat about where we were going as a group and we decided it would be a good idea to start the in Fife. We put an advert in the local press to invite teams or players to join us. We got a number of

replies from various organisations from Leven, Methil, Buckhaven and Falkland. It was [REDACTED] MBV [REDACTED] at St Ninian's who contacted us and asked if the school could take part and enter one or two teams. We invited them to come aboard. Because of the training I had received I was asked by the teams in the league to go out and give them some coaching including St Ninian's. I started going up for a couple of hours every three or four weeks to give the boys coaching in [REDACTED]. Sometimes we would bring all the players from the league together and bring coaches from Dundee to do coaching. I was involved in the structure of the league, and we had a small committee to ensure it ran smoothly. This was all happening around 1968/1971.

5. The local Technical College asked me if I would go to them and give them extra coaching with their players. It was after that they offered me a part time post as a [REDACTED] coach and I accepted. It was only for one night a week and through that they sent me on a part-time training course to work with young people. This training, was organised by the local authority, Fife Council. After the training I was promoted, if you can call it promoted, to become a general youth worker. I then helped on a Friday night at a general youth club where there was music and other activities. Unlike the [REDACTED] evenings on a Tuesday which were quite structured this was quite unstructured.
6. Whilst I was doing this part time youth work I was still occasionally going to St Ninian's and other clubs to do [REDACTED] coaching. I was involved in the [REDACTED] league organising events. I was still working as a photographer too and occasionally there were issues because my youth work was conflicting with some evening events that they wanted me to photograph.
7. At some point someone suggested that I apply to Dundee College to become a Community Education Worker. I thought about it for a few weeks then applied. I was interviewed and was turned down. I wasn't too upset as their only comment was that my credentials were okay but they suggested I get more practical experience of working with young people and reapply the following year.

8. During my visits to St Ninian's I got to know Brother [LMZ]. After my coaching visits to St Ninian's I would often sit and have a cup of tea with him. I chatted and confided with him about my work. I mentioned to him about my application for Dundee College. A few weeks later he asked me to go to St Ninian's to see him. I did and to my surprise he told me that he had spoken to the Brothers and they were willing to offer me a short term post to allow me to get the experience that Dundee College were looking for. That would have been in 1971. I had no idea at that time what the actual post or role was. I got back to them a week or so later and asked for more detail. They said to me that the job title would be 'house parent' and my main role was to work with the young people out of school hours, helping to organise activities, especially [redacted] coaching. I decided to accept their offer, and left my photographic job. I didn't get an actual interview. It was more general discussions with Brothers [LMZ] and [MBV]. I have no idea what checks, if any, were done to check my suitability.

St Ninian's, Falkland, Fife

9. It would have been [redacted] or [redacted] 1971 when I started at St Ninian's. I was given my own bedroom in the main part of the house. To be honest the room was quite small, dingy, cold and very basic. The dormitories where the boys slept were above the courtyard and in a completely different but attached part of the building. All the dormitories from what I remember were on the first floor around the courtyard.
10. I think St Ninian's was a List D School but I am not sure. It was all boys and as far as I am aware they were there because of one or two reasons. It could have been that they had family issues and couldn't remain at home, or because they were getting into trouble and had to be removed. I would estimate there to be roughly forty boys aged between twelve and fifteen.

Training

11. I didn't receive any formal training when I was at St Ninian's. What I did get was practical experience dealing with young people in a very different environment to what I was used to.

Roles and responsibilities

12. I think Brother LMZ and MBV gave me a general introduction into what was expected of me at St Ninian's. The role of house parent was explained to me and the key thing they wanted me to do was to work with the boys out-with school hours. This was roughly a forty minute period after their lunch before they went back to class. I would then come back on duty before and after their evening meal until nine o'clock when the boys went to the dormitories. At weekends the program was very sport centred and I would assist in any way. I think in the first few weeks I slowly found out what I could do and the Brothers found other things for me to do. At first when I wasn't working, I would often sit in my room reading, go out for a walk, go visit the kitchen staff, or sit with the matron and talk.
13. The shift pattern I worked was more or less five days on then two days off. When I was working I would stay overnight in my own room. On my days off I would go to my family home. Sometimes I would have days off through the week and other times I would be off at the weekend. While doing this I was still busy through my involvement in the [REDACTED]. Part of what they wanted at St Ninians was for me to organise in-house [REDACTED] tournaments as well as coaching, training, rules of the game and umpiring. I had no real interest in any other sport so they didn't ask me to do anything else other than [REDACTED]
14. St Ninian's was very sports orientated, either football, rugby, cross country running cricket or athletics. At the weekend I was involved in a supporting role. If there were pupils that were injured or unwell and couldn't play I would sit with them and shout encouragement and support the team that was playing and keep the pupils occupied. I think quite quickly after taking up this role I think 'support worker' was a

more suitable title for what I was doing. I felt I was providing support for the young people as it was all outside the classroom and I was not seen as a teacher or authority figure.

15. After I had been there for a short while and settled in the Brothers recognised that I could fulfil another role which would release the Brothers and teachers for other duties. They wanted me to help with youngsters who needed to go to the doctor, hospital, dentist, optician or other appointments. I was to take them to their appointments and offer support. I would wait with the young person in the waiting room but wouldn't normally go in with them when they want to see the practitioner. If I was on duty, and a boy took unwell, or needed to go to an appointment, I was called to take them. Connected with this was visiting pupils if they had been admitted to hospital. I would visit them regularly and take them comics, snacks and keep them company for a while. There was one boy, whose name I can't remember, who was in hospital with gall stones. I visited him nearly every day for a couple of hours. There was a 'house car' which I was allowed to use for this.

Staff

16. St Ninian's was run by the Christian Brothers. They normally didn't wear any religious clothing, but I remember Brother LMZ wearing his habit or wearing a dog collar at times. They normally just wore normal casual clothes. The Brothers did most of the teaching in the classes. There were other staff from outside who came in and did cooking and cleaning, and a handyman.

Brother BHD

17. Brother BHD was the teacher of the school and I believe was also the Brothers. I only ever knew him as Brother BHD. I believe he was there all the time I was there. He was certainly there at the end but I am not sure if he was there when I started. I think he was between 45 to 50 but that is just a guess. I am not sure if he taught in the classroom. I didn't have any dealings with him and

he never gave me any instructions. He didn't come over as being a warm sort of person. He was quite stern and was brusque and blunt at times. I didn't see him interacting with the boys very often and it was usually at prize-givings when he presented cups or trophies. From what I saw he seemed to be quite chatty, having a laugh and was positive with the boys. I didn't see him discipline any of the boys, nor did I see or hear anything about Brother [REDACTED] BHD that gave me any concerns apart from the one incident with Frank McCue which led to me leaving St Ninian's. The passage of time has not affected my memories of Brother [REDACTED] BHD

Brother [REDACTED] MBV

18. I knew Brother [REDACTED] MBV before I came to St Ninian's through the [REDACTED]. He contacted me after we advertised that we were going to start up a [REDACTED] league. I met him quite regularly before I came to St Ninian's through the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he represented St. Ninians on the committee. I remember he had big sideboards and smoked a pipe. He had a good sense of humour and had a good laugh with the boys. He was a friendly man and was very supportive of promoting [REDACTED] I only saw him interacting with the boys when they were out on the sports field. I never saw him in the classroom. I never saw him disciplining any boy or being hostile in any way towards them. I never saw or heard anything about him that caused me any concern.

Brother [REDACTED] LMZ

19. My mentor was Brother [REDACTED] LMZ I know he was [REDACTED] LMZ but I referred to him as Brother [REDACTED] LMZ He helped in securing my job at St Ninian's and he was the one I went to for support or if I needed anything. I guess he was around 25 at that time and was the [REDACTED] teacher. He was very talented musically. He had a very strong accent as he was from the Newcastle or Sunderland area. He was a very cheery, amiable sort of person although he had some health issues. I often saw him taking medication but did not know the reason. He was interested in cricket so introduced and coached that with the boys. When my duties finished around nine o'clock and the boys went to get ready for their beds, if I was staying over, I often sat

with Brother LMZ and had a cup of tea with him and we chatted and listened to music. Because of that I am sure he didn't have anything to do with the boys' bedtime routine.

20. I saw Brother LMZ working with the boys when they were preparing for concerts and he was getting them to sing or were doing drama. He was not over-authoritative and was quite encouraging. The boys got on fine with him and they would all have a laugh together and have fun. I never saw any concerning involvement or interaction with the boys. I never saw him doing anything untoward or him disciplining any of the boys. I didn't have any concerns about Brother LMZ and I never heard anyone say anything about him. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of Brother LMZ

Brother MCY

21. The name Brother MCY does not ring any bells with me. If he was there when I was at St Ninian's I cannot remember him.

Brother LNA

22. I remember Brother LNA He was a teacher and was in charge of one of, or part of, the dormitories and was responsible for the night time and morning routine. He was friendly in a way but I didn't really have a lot to do with him or spend a lot of time with him. He was Irish, I think and was a bit stand offish or distant from me. I occasionally spoke to him about sport matches and he might have asked me to check things were organised. I saw him interacting with the boys sometimes and he and the boys were quite relaxed. None cowered or appeared afraid of him. I never saw him discipline any of the boys nor did I hear any stories or have any concerns about him.

Brother [REDACTED] LHI

23. There may have been a Brother [REDACTED] LHI but I cannot put a face to the name. I cannot remember anything about him or hearing anything about him. He mustn't have made an impression on me. I couldn't say what his role was at St Ninian's.

Brother [REDACTED] LHC

24. This name rings a bell, but only because I read something with that name in a newspaper article on the web. I think it was something to do with a Brother [REDACTED] LHC setting St Ninian's up. This may well be a different Brother [REDACTED] LHC I have no personal recollection of a Brother [REDACTED] LHC when I was at St Ninian's.

Brother [REDACTED] MHJ

25. I believe he was a small, cheery, happy sort of chap. I have a feeling that he was the [REDACTED] at some point and this may possibly have been before Brother [REDACTED] BHD He would have been forty to fifty. He had a nice manner about him. I only saw him very occasionally and like Brother [REDACTED] BHD I recall him presenting cups or trophies. I didn't really see him working with the boys. I never saw him disciplining any of the boys nor did I hear about anything that caused me any concern.

Mr [REDACTED] BHB

26. Mr [REDACTED] BHB was a [REDACTED] teacher. He wasn't a Brother and lived outside St Ninian's in a nearby town or village. I can't remember his first name, and I don't know if he had a nickname. He was very practically minded and was very good at repairing things and getting things sorted and ordered. He came over as a very pleasant character. I don't know what he did before he came to St Ninian's. I think he washed the sports kit at times. He got on very well with the boys and nothing sticks out in mind to say that he was particularly good or bad with them. I never saw him

disciplining any of the boys nor did I hear about anything that caused me any concern.

Matron

27. There was a matron there but I cannot remember her name. She looked after the health and welfare of the boys.

Kitchen and cleaning staff

28. The kitchen and cleaning staff were not Brothers. They did all the cooking and cleaning within St Ninian's. I can't remember their names, none lived in the house.

Caretaker

29. There was a caretaker / odd job man but I cannot remember his name. I think he lived in the village.

Life at St Ninian's

First Impressions

30. I thought St Ninian's had a very relaxed and easy going atmosphere. When I was doing the [REDACTED] coaching, the young people were excellent and seemed very keen. There wasn't very much for them to do in the evening so they enjoyed the [REDACTED]. It could also have been because it was a change to their normal routine. Everyone seemed relaxed and happy.

Mornings and bedtime

31. I never had any involvement in the morning and bedtime routines. I don't remember any occasion when I had to go into any of the dormitories. I never saw the boys in

the morning. The first involvement I would have with them was after their lunch. That was when I came on duty. At night time I was only on duty until the boys went to get ready for bed, usually at nine o'clock. I had no involvement in the boys' bedtime routine. Quite often I would go and sit with Brother LMZ and have a cup of tea and a chat, listen to music, or I would go watch TV before going to bed.

New admissions

32. I had nothing to do with new boys when they arrived at St Ninian's so I don't know how they were welcomed and introduced to the school. I was never given any information or briefing about new admissions so I knew nothing about their background.

Mealtimes

33. I ate my meals upstairs with the Brothers at the same time that the boys ate. I didn't eat in the dining room with the boys. I think one of the Brothers supervised the boys meals downstairs.

Washing and bathing

34. I was never involved in the boys washing or bathing. Even after sport when they showered this was not part of my duties.

Clothing and Laundry

35. The matron, whose name I can't remember, looked after the boys' clothes and organised the laundry. She didn't actually do it but made sure it was done. I can't remember if the boys wore any kind of uniform or if it was just really their own clothes. The boys wore their own clothes because I used to sometimes sit with the matron and she would be sewing name tags onto the boys' clothes. This was so when it was laundered they would get their own clothes back. Matron also had a

clothing store so gave the boys new clothes or shoes when they needed them. I am not sure if they ever went shopping for new clothes.

Leisure time

36. Most of my involvement with the boys after lunch time and evening time revolved around table tennis, especially in the winter. Otherwise I did have a general supervisory role with the boys, there was normally one or two of the Brothers supervising as well. There may have been a common room where the boys would congregate in the evenings but I am not sure. There were some comics and there might have been books. I am not sure if there was a library. There were chess and draughts sets there and the boys played some of their own home made games. The boys could go outside and kick a ball about or go for a wander around the grounds. The boys used to go swimming in school time but I wasn't involved in that, mainly because I could not swim. I don't recall where they went swimming.
37. I don't recall ever seeing any of the boys smoking. Some of the Brothers did, but not the boys.

Trips and holidays

38. I can only remember one trip to a caravan park at Pettycur Bay in Kinghorn with some of the boys. The Brothers came too. There may have been other trips to other places but I can not remember any out-with Fife. ██████████ league games still took place at St Ninian's and at the other team's venues. The boys would get taken there in the school minibus. I do not recall driving the mini bus, but must have at times travelled with them to away ██████████ matches.

Schooling

39. There were three or four classrooms in the main part of the building and were on the first floor. I wasn't trained to teach so I never had any involvement in the classroom. I was never invited in to help any of the teachers. The teaching was done by the

Brothers, apart from [REDACTED] Mr BHB came in from outside to teach the boys [REDACTED] I don't remember the boys having to do any homework in the evening.

Healthcare

40. The matron was responsible for the health and welfare of the boys. If the boys needed to go to the doctors, dentist or hospital for a non-emergency, and if I was on duty I would be contacted and asked to drive the boy to get treatment. It could be any of the Brothers who would contact me. The doctor may have visited St Ninian's at other times but I don't know.

Deaths procedure

41. I know of two boys who died at St Ninian's. The matron told me about one. He had been playing sport and had felt unwell so had gone to see her. She sat him down and he just passed away. It was established he had a heart issue and it was put down as natural causes. The other one was a boy from Glasgow and happened when I was at St Ninian's. The boy went home for weekend leave and on the following week I was told that he had committed suicide. I can't remember his name. I don't know the circumstances as to what happened.

Religious instruction

42. Because I wasn't involved in the classroom I don't know what was taught in relation to religious education. There was a small chapel in the main building but it wouldn't have been big enough for all the boys. I know the parish priest used to come in once or twice. He wore a long cassock which was right down to the ground.

Work

43. There were cleaners and kitchen staff there. The boys probably had general cleaning duties to do. I think it was only things like keeping their own rooms or areas clean and tidy. Some of the boys may have helped out in the kitchen before, during or after

meal times. They did things like clear the tables and clean up. I have no idea if the boys got any pocket money.

Christmas and Birthdays

44. All the boys went home for Christmas and the school was closed for this and other holidays. I can't remember how the boys got home, whether it was a hired coach or shuttled in the minibus. Before or as soon as they left I headed home and did not return till the school reopened.

Personal possessions

45. I am not aware what the boys were allowed to keep in their dorm. As far as I am aware all they had was a bed and a locker where they could hang their clothes and store books and comics.

Visitors / Inspections

46. I don't remember what the arrangements were for visitors to come and visit the boys. I don't recall there being many visits because the family homes were so far away from St Ninian's. Most boys were from Glasgow and there were a couple from Dundee and Edinburgh. Most of the boys got home for the odd weekend now and again to visit their family. Some of the boys wrote letters home but I am not aware if they got to use a phone. I am not aware of social workers coming in to St Ninian's but they may well have and I wouldn't have known. I am not aware of there ever being an official external inspection but it could have happened. I am not aware of any outsiders coming in and spending time with the boys. I was never approached at any time by anyone to ask about how St Ninian's was run.

Review of care / detention

47. I didn't have any say in the review or care of the boys. This was handled by the Brothers. There were times when some of the boys would come and sit with me and

confide in me that they really missed and wanted to go home. I always suggested that they spoke to whichever Brother looked after them to tell them how they were feeling and ask if a home visit could be arranged. This was the Brother who looked after the particular group and supervised the dorms. I don't recall how many of these Brothers there were. Sometimes, in my supporting role, I would have a word with the Brothers or Brother [REDACTED] LMZ and suggest that it might be a good idea if that particular boy got to go home. Sometimes the Brothers told me that was the worst possible place that they could go, so now and again I failed in my argument.

Discharge / Life after St Ninians

48. I have no idea what was done to prepare the boys as they approached their time to leave St Ninian's. I wasn't involved in that possibly because I was there for such a short time. I believe the option was there for boys to get back in touch with the school after they had left. I know that some boys came back to visit while I was there and let the Brothers know how they were getting on and what they were doing. Some came back to visit their brothers who were still here.

Discipline and Punishment

49. The boys made it very easy for me at St Ninian's. I don't remember there being any bullying, messing around or fighting. They all just seemed to get on really well and were well behaved. I never had disciplinary control over the boys but in any case I never felt any need to discipline any of the boys. The only time I saw any kind of discipline being given was when I saw boys standing in the corridor outside the classrooms apparently having done something in the classroom. I never saw, nor was aware of any boys getting belted or hit in any way. I would have been upset if I had seen anything like that.
50. I never saw any written discipline code and there was never anything explained to me what the process for discipline was. I am not aware of any discipline book in place anywhere where any administered punishment would be recorded. I never had an occasion when I sent any boys to the Brothers for misbehaving, nor did I

approach the Brothers due to any of the boys behaviour that was causing me any concern. I learned during my work at the local technical college that if I had any issues with an individual or group it was my responsibility to deal with that issue. I carried on with that way of working during my time at St. Ninians and for the rest of my working life.

Abuse at St Ninian's

51. In my time there I never witnessed any bullying between the boys, or anything that I would consider to be abuse by the Brothers on the boys. Even with the benefit of hindsight I didn't see any signs that made me think there was any abuse going on. None of the boys ever expressed any concerns or told me they had been abused. I never got the impression or feeling at St Ninian's that there was anything wrong. All the boys seemed happy. Some boys were homesick but that was to be expected.

MCQ

and Frank McCue

52. I remember Frank McCue and David Sharp from St Ninian's after a news item. They were both pleasant, cheery young people. I wasn't aware that they were unhappy in any way. Neither showed to me any discomfort or give me any indication that they were unhappy. As far as I remember they were both there for most, if not all of my time there. MCQ I do not remember.

Allegations made by MCQ

53. In the statement of MCQ he says "*There were civilian staff at St Ninian's. There was a guy called MCS MCS was probably about thirty or forty. He wasn't tall, he was just a wee skinny guy. He stayed within St Ninian's. He wasn't a teacher. I don't remember him in the classroom. Thinking back I don't know what position he held. He didn't take sports, didn't teach and didn't do maintenance*

or anything like that. He always had his camera with him. He would take photos of sports events and things like that. He was taking pictures all the time”.

54. I think [MCQ] is remembering someone else as he states that the person he remembers was 30/40 years old, was wee and skinny. When at St. Ninians, I would have been 21, I am not wee and certainly not skinny. He also says the person he remembers did not do any work around the school and he says clearly 'he didn't take any sports'. Although the main reason for me coming to St Ninians was to coach [REDACTED] I would have been coaching at least 3 to 4 nights a week plus helping to organise home and away games in the [REDACTED] league for the St. Ninians teams. I refer to my previous comments about my job description and responsibilities in regard to work.
55. [MCQ] further says *“I don't know what role [MCS] had in St Ninian's but he never went anywhere without his camera. It had a lens on it. After sports he quite often took the showers. He was in the showers near enough every day. He probably was supposed to be there supervising and making sure there were no fights or “carry-ons”. He would parade up and down. He would ask you to turn around and he would take photographs of you. Looking back now he was there for only one thing. There was no need for him to have a camera in the shower block.”*
56. Again I refer to my comments above and to other comments in this statement which clearly state that I had no involvement in the shower area at the school and never had any responsibility for supervising that area. [MCQ] also says this person was there almost every day... now that could not have been me, as I was not staying in St. Ninians 7 days a week. Again I think [MCQ] is thinking of someone else as his description of this persons activities certainly does not fit with my work or responsibilities at the school. What [MCQ] says did not involve me. The Brothers dealt with the supervision of the shower area at all times. I am not aware if any of the Brothers had or used a camera.

Allegations made by Frank McCue

57. In his statement Frank McCue says *"When I was about fourteen years old we used to go to a disco at Strathmiglo and the girls were captivated by all the different accents but the local boys hated us for it. I remember we met a couple of girls and they had friends at Falkland Village which wasn't that far away from St Ninian's and we told them to come and see us. A couple of weeks later we saw them walking along the road so went to speak to them. [REDACTED] MCS [REDACTED] who was St Ninian's [REDACTED] told us that we were to get back to the house immediately. We had words and I eventually told him, like you would tell a friend, to "F" off. He then left to go and tell Brother [REDACTED] BHD [REDACTED] who later tried to kill me that night for swearing at a so called member of staff.*
58. I do not recall what is described. I would never have stopped the boys from chatting to girls. I certainly never approached Brother [REDACTED] BHD [REDACTED] about it. In my whole time there I never approached Brother [REDACTED] BHD [REDACTED] or any brother with any concern or to tell them that any boy was misbehaving. Frank McCue came over as a friendly young person and at no time do I recall him swearing at me.
59. Frank McCue goes on to say *"Brother [REDACTED] BHD [REDACTED] must have heard me fall and he came running back over. I remember [REDACTED] was shouting to him "You are killing him, you are killing him". [REDACTED] tried to get out the door and was shouting about calling the police. Brother [REDACTED] LMZ [REDACTED] and another Brother dragged [REDACTED] back and were sitting on top of him. Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] MCS [REDACTED] and either Brother [REDACTED] MCY [REDACTED] or Brother [REDACTED] MBV [REDACTED] and possibly Brother [REDACTED] LHI [REDACTED] pulled Brother [REDACTED] BHD [REDACTED] away from me. I was left in a puddle of blood and snotters. The other Brothers and [REDACTED] MCS [REDACTED] picked me up and carried me through to the senior sitting room and put me on a sofa and I was pleading for an ambulance. I had never been in so much pain. I was on fire from my toes all the way up. I knew then that I had at least broken some of my fingers. I told them that my fingers were broken because they were swollen up like balloon fingers of a cartoon character, and I had blood running down my face and the back of my neck but they just told me that I would be fine. Brother [REDACTED] BHD [REDACTED]*

was still trying to get at me and he was spitting foam, shouting about me going to borstal. He was enraged”.

60. If this above incident is supposed to have happened inside the house then I am not sure that I am aware of this incident. The incident I know about was where Frank was attacked by Brother [BHD] in the courtyard or just outside the courtyard. My recollection was that I was walking down from the [] room just before 9 pm to make sure all the boys were coming in to get ready for bed. Some boys, who I can't remember, came running towards me and they were agitated. They said that Brother [BHD] was attacking Frank McCue in the courtyard with a stick or a golf club. When I got to the courtyard one of the Brothers, I can't remember who, told me that Frank had been taken up to the dormitory and that I wouldn't be able to get access to see him that night. I had no idea what Frank's injuries were or even if he had any. I was not privy to this. I wasn't aware if Frank got or received any medical attention that night or even the next day. I don't remember seeing an ambulance or a doctor turning up.
61. I spoke to Brother [LMZ] about it that night because I was upset. All the other Brothers swerved round the subject and obviously felt very awkward. I asked Brother [LMZ] what the Brothers would do about the incident and Brother [LMZ] told me that they would deal with it. It was either the next day or the day after that I first saw Frank. He was in a bed but I can't remember if it was in a dorm or a room. For the next week or two, I spent time with Frank and supported him, more likely on a daily basis. We would spend time talking and walking round the grounds. I could see by the way he was walking and the way he was holding himself that he was in great pain.
62. Frank goes on to say “*Brother [BHD] was taken out the room and I got taken up to my old dorm where someone had made up a bed. I think after that I must have passed out with exhaustion. When I woke up [MCS] was standing beside me and he was crying. The pillow was stuck to my face because of the dried blood. I tried to get up and I vomited on the floor. I showed him my hands and he just went*

on about how sorry he was. I told him I needed a doctor because I needed treatment.”

63. The first time that I saw Frank after the incident he was in a bed and I was not aware of any bruising or seeing any marks on his head. I am led to believe that he put his arms up to protect himself so he may have had injuries on his arms, legs or sides. I didn't think it was appropriate to ask to see his injuries. What Frank says in his statement about me visiting him and the pillow being stuck to his face with dried blood and him being sick I do not recall. Frank never asked me at any time for any treatment. I do not recall any injuries or damage to his hands. I do not recall standing beside his bed crying. Whether Frank was delirious and he saw someone else, I don't know.
64. I can only think that there have been two events because they seem to have happened in two places, one outside and one inside the building. I think people may have got them mixed up. The incident Frank is describing is certainly not how I remember and not what I saw.
65. Further on Frank McCue says in his statement [MCS] *came to me and told me how Brother [BHD] was going to be punished and that the other Brothers were having a big meeting. I think Brother [BHD] was at St Ninian's all the time and what [MCS] said was lies.”*
66. I do not remember that conversation at all. All I can remember was going to Brother [LMZ] and asking continually what was happening. I wanted to know if the Brothers were taking action or if other action was being taken. I was told that it was being dealt with. I relayed the information to Frank that the Brothers were dealing with Brother [BHD]. I don't remember anyone telling me that Brother [BHD] had been removed so I could not have said that to Frank. Plus it was Brother [BHD] that asked for me to leave St. Ninians, which meant he had never left.
67. In his statement, Frank McCue says *“When I left St Ninian's, [MCS] had arranged to meet with [REDACTED] maybe two months after the beating and I*

went to meet them. [MCS] told me that because of me, Brother [BHD]'s life was in ruins. He had been sent to Rome for a year, some sort of sabbatical then he was to go to Ireland but he was never to be allowed to teach again and wasn't allowed to be near kids. This was all a load of rubbish and lies and said to make me think that the matter had been dealt with properly to keep me quiet. I think Brother [BHD] was there the whole time and was in an upstairs room being kept out of the way."

68. I think I would have remembered if I had been told Frank that Brother [BHD] had been sent to Rome. I wouldn't have made that up, why would I. I was not privy to the workings of the Catholic church or how they would have dealt with it. That part of the conversation did not happen from my recollection. I was not made aware of what action was taken against Brother [BHD] I certainly would never ever have defended or been concerned in any way as to what happened to Brother [BHD] at that time I probably hated the man. I approached Brother [LMZ] every couple of days and constantly asked him what was happening.
69. In relation to the allegation made against me by [MCQ] at St Ninian's, I once again state that he has described someone who does not fit with my age and my job involvement at St. Ninians.
70. There is a possibility that the passage of time may have affected my recollection of events in regard to Frank McCue. Because of the time that has passed it is possible things have been blocked from my memory or that certain things have been taken away. I know that I can only name six or seven staff yet I know there were many more and I just can't remember their names or faces. There is a possibility that all the other things I have done in my life and the passage of time has affected my ability to remember what happened in relation to this incident regarding Frank McCue, at St Ninian's.

Reporting of abuse whilst at St Ninian's

71. I had a positive relationship with the boys at St Ninian's and I was there to support them. I think I got on with most of the boys and if they had any issues then they may have come to me to confide in me or to look for advice but to be honest none of them did, apart from a couple who were homesick. I was not told what I should do in the event that a boy disclosed any abuse to me. There was no set procedure in place, as far as I am aware for dealing with abuse. In the event that one of the boys did tell me anything I would probably have passed this on to Brother **LMZ** to deal with it, but that never happened.
72. If the boys had any problems or issues, I would imagine that the matron would be one of the first people the boys would speak to. She had a good relationship with them and was supportive. They may also have approached the kitchen or housekeeping staff who were all women. All these women chatted with the boys and were friendly with them and got to know them very well. On that basis the boys may have approached one of them. I am not aware of anyone else that the boys may have been able to report anything to or if anyone was nominated to do this.
73. In relation to the incident with Frank McCue and Brother **BHD** I am not aware of any discussions as to whether Frank's social worker or the police were told about the incident. I would not have been involved in this type of discussion and it would be up to the Brothers. Brother **LMZ** told me that they were dealing with it. I was aware that what happened shouldn't have happened, but I was only 21 so I wasn't really wise enough to know what I should or shouldn't do. I do not know if Frank wrote or told his family or his social worker. If he wanted his family to know I would have encouraged him to write or talk to them, but I don't know if he did or not.

Leaving St Ninian's

74. After Frank McCue had been attacked by Brother **BHD** every couple of days I was asking Brother **LMZ** what was happening with Brother **BHD** I never

spoke to Brother [BHD] after that incident. I refused to speak to him. I was uncomfortable being in the same room as him and if we were, I would get up and leave. I think I was being a pain in their side because I was fighting for Frank McCue. Eventually the only response I did get was from Brother [LMZ]. He told me that unfortunately Brother [BHD] has asked me to leave St Ninian's. I was never given any explanation why I was to leave but to me it was very obvious.

75. When I left I reapplied to Dundee College of Education and the nine months experience I had gained at St Ninian's must have been recognised and I was accepted. I completed the course and graduated as a Community Education Worker. I went to work in Dumfries and Galloway. As part of my duties as a Community Education Worker I supported groups from pre-school play groups right through to old age pensioner groups. From there I moved down to Liverpool thirty years ago, where I am now. I continued to work in community education.

Records

76. Unfortunately I never kept any sort of diary of what I was doing, or any thoughts I had at the time, when I was at St Ninian's. This means I cannot be specific about dates, like when I arrived or left. I was not privy to any of the information in the office or within the filing cabinets. Nobody ever showed me any reports or files in the office and I never saw any of the boys' records. I was never asked to write any reports, either collectively or individually in respect of the boys.

Lessons and Hopes

77. I could never understand why the boys were uplifted and placed so far from where they lived. A lot of the boys were from Glasgow, and a couple from Dundee and Edinburgh. It seemed unfair to place them in the middle of nowhere, so far away from their homes in a rural setting. This made it difficult for visits from family members and made the boys feel even more isolated and homesick. This

aggravated the situation because of the lack of parental contact and support. Some boys I am sure felt very cut off.

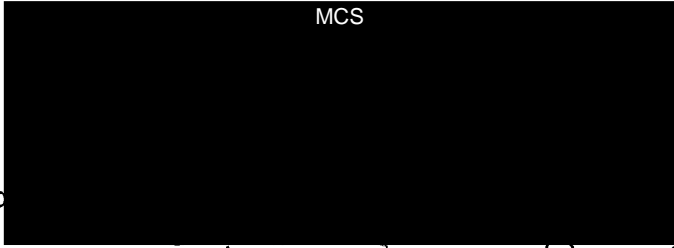
Other Information

78. When the news broke about St Ninian's a few years ago, David Sharp and Frank McCue were on the news, I think in 2014. I was very shocked and surprised by what was being said by them about what they had experienced at St Ninian's especially at the realisation that some of this could have gone on when I had been there. I got the impression from the boys when I was there that everything was fine, but obviously it wasn't.
79. Just after the news had broken about St Ninian's I received an email from Frank McCue. Frank said that I had told him that I would help him but in the end I just colluded with the Brothers. That may have been what he thought but that was not the case.
80. I gave a statement to Police Scotland some time after Frank's email to me. I can't remember the date. It may have been a month or two later. They interviewed me on the telephone. They wanted to know about the incident with Frank McCue and Brother [REDACTED] BHD and I told them what I told you. They didn't send me a statement to read and sign. I was never cited to appear at court in relation to any court proceedings.
81. Frank McCue's lawyer contacted me by telephone in the last six months. Again I was interviewed on the telephone. It was a much lengthier interview than I had with the police. The main thrust of their questioning was in relation to the incident with Frank and Brother [REDACTED] BHD and what my memories were. They subsequently sent me a transcript of our call. There were major errors in this transcript, including a name that I did not know and never mentioned. There were some errors, corrections were made and my statement was signed off.

82. Anybody going through what some of these boys went through must have been a nightmare for them. It must have been like a horror movie that never finishes. For some of these former pupils, their experiences must get played over and over in their minds. From what I have heard some of these boys' experiences were horrific. I would not be surprised that they would be affected for the rest of their lives, affecting family, relationships, jobs and their own mental and physical wellbeing. I would think that individuals would require ongoing support and this should be provided as and when needed by an individual and for as long as they require.
83. In the statement of Frank McCue he mentions that he told the police I had four websites and that may be worth looking at. I would like to comment on this comment. My websites are open to the public for anyone to view. The main one is in relation to the secondary school I attended. I think this web page was set in 2001. There is a lot of information about the school and it is a reflection on what the school was about and how it affected both staff and pupils. It was this school that introduced me to the magic of [REDACTED]. The head teacher, had a different view on education and rather than pupils being stuck in a school classroom, he believed to get pupils out of the class room to learn and explore.
84. Webpages have been set up to remember the school, staff and pupils way back in the 1960's regarding the school I attended. Any images on these pages are either mine taken when I was at the school, I might have been 13/14 years old. Other images from that time are donated by former staff and pupils. These are all listed on the web pages. Another page looks at the local caves, photography and a page about a local football club.
85. I have a handful of [REDACTED] pages set up in the last few years, relating to railways, signal boxes, photography and Radio Scotland. Note, the police have never contacted me in regard to my webpages.
86. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

MCS

Signed



Dated

11 JUNE 2019